

REMARKS

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-13 and 15-25 remain pending in the subject application. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended, claims 2-13 and 15-25 remain unchanged, and claim 14 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added in the present Amendment.

Claim Allowance, Claim Amendment, and Comments

Claims 14 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, i.e., previously presented claim 1. Specifically, claims 14 and 19 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowed claims.

Based on objected to claims 14 and 19, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of allowed claim 14, which depends from claim 1. Allowed claim 19 still depends from claim 1, as amended. As such, the Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1, as amended, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Int. Pat. Appl. Publ. WO 03/086029 to Goodwin et al. (the '029 publication), which is the equivalent of U.S. Pat. No. 7,438,882. However, based on the present Amendment, the Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections are now overcome. Specifically, as described above, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 14

and is in condition for allowance. As such, the obvious rejections are now overcome or moot, respectfully.

It should be appreciated that claim 1 is currently amended to include the elements of allowable claim 14 merely to expedite the prosecution of the allowed claims. The present Amendment is not an admission that claim 1, as originally presented, lacked novelty or is obvious and the Applicants maintain the right to pursue claim 1, as originally presented, in a continuation application.

Conclusions

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is both novel and non-obvious, in view of the disclosure, teachings, and suggestions of the prior art. As such, independent claim 1, as well as all of the claims that depend therefrom, are now all in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are necessary to respond to the outstanding Office Action, you are hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS PLLC

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